

Year 9 Early Options Meeting: Frequently asked questions

What is the process for confirming options?

The deadline for returning the options form is Friday, 19th March. After this point we will look at what students have chosen and build our options blocks to accommodate as many student choices as possible. A letter will then be issued confirming options and we will speak to each student individually. This will happen shortly after we return from the Easter break.

How is the timetable organised?

There will be three “options blocks” created. Each student will have a choice within these blocks and all the subjects within a block are timetabled for lessons at the same time. There will inevitably be clashes from the initial choices, but through this process of an “early choice”, we are able to make sure there are as few as possible.

What happens to students currently in Small Group Provision?

Students in Small Group Provision will continue to be taught in a smaller group for the majority of their lessons, although there may be some change in the composition of the group where appropriate. For the options subjects we do look to provide a small group in each option, but it does depend on the choices made by the ALN student.

Subject specific questions

Is MPCT - public services BTEC still available?

No, we no longer run the Public Services BTEC course

Can you study business studies at GCSE or just IVET?

We offer Business BTEC Firsts Award with Pearson/Edexcel and have no current plans to offer the GCSE course.

Why are there two options for PE and Sport? Which is more popular?

We currently offer both GCSE PE and a Sports BTEC. This is in place for us to be able to meet the need of a variety of learners as they offer different approaches to assessment with the GCSE having a greater emphasis on traditional examinations and Sports BTEC with more coursework and smaller online assessments. These will be in the same option column therefore; students must not choose both courses.

Is History, Geography and a language an acceptable combination? Or does there need to be a creative option too?

We suggest that students look for a balance of subjects within their options, but do not make this compulsory. If a student has a specific preference such as History, Geography and a Language, then this is a valid combination.

Is it a heavy workload to study both Geography and History? Are there students at KHS who take both these subjects?

Both History and Geography do contain a heavier written element, but this will all depend on the student. There are several students currently who study both Geography and History all the way up to A Level!

How to approach “new subjects”

The best approach to a “new” subject such as Sociology, Business Studies or Health and Social Care would be to investigate the subjects further with your child. The best starting place would be the [Learning Pathways Booklet](#) which outlines the structure of the curriculum at KS4 and has subject summaries of all the courses on offer.

There are also videos outlining the course created by Subject Leaders which we would suggest watching. These videos are in the Year 9 Google Classroom in the Assignment labelled "Year 9 Options".

Is there a subject that is particularly popular or commonly oversubscribed?

We have some subjects which usually have larger numbers such as Product Design or Art, but the main advantage of organising the options by initially having a free choice is that it allows us to look at demand and if necessary increase the numbers of groups needed. In some cases this isn't possible, for example we only have a certain number of cookers in the Food classrooms!

If they are not at a high enough level at KS3 will this have an impact on the options, e.g. low level English wanting to do history?

We will look at each student as an individual and hope to guide them to options in which they will succeed and be successful. The best thing in this situation would be to speak to the subject teacher and ask them to show the level of written work required. Not every student will get an A grade, but it is important they enjoy a subject and are able to succeed.

Is it better to do separate sciences at GCSE, if you later want to do physics/chemistry at A level?

Science is part of our core offer rather than an option and all students can go on to A Level Science subjects whether they have completed Double or Separate Sciences

Is a student able to study a future A Level in a certain subject if they don't take it for GCSE?

This is true in some cases, but not in others. For example History will take students at A Level who haven't done GCSE as long as they have a B grade in English. In a subject like Music this isn't the case. If you have a question relating to a specific subject please let me know and we can look into it for you.

IVET and GCSEs

Is there an advantage/disadvantage in taking IVET than GCSE?

No, there is no advantage or disadvantage in terms of the qualifications and their outcomes for students moving forward. What they do is assess students differently with a larger proportions of exams to coursework in the GCSE courses. It is important to think about students and how they would best achieve success with the subjects they choose.

Can you opt for one IVET and 2 GCSE options?

Mixing GCSEs and IVET is a valid combination and may allow students to have more of a spread of different types of qualifications and assessments.

How to get in touch with any further questions?

You can contact us through the school email info@khs.schoolsdu.org.uk and mark your email FAO: Mrs Corken. The option form is also being monitored, so if you have a question you can also write it on there.